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KANSAS JUSTICE HOLDS COURT

Lawyers Strictly Barred from Place-Unique Jurist Is Six Feet Seven Inches Tal!-Weighs Nearly 500 Pounds.

Topeka, Kan .-- With his anvil for a bench, his sledgehammer for a gavel, and his blacksmith shop for a courtroom, Frank Jacques, justice of the peace at Elmont, a village seven miles north of Topeka, presides over what is perhaps the most unique tribunal in the world.

Standing six feet seven inches tall, weighing 482 pounds, Justice Jacques is a commanding figure, and when his lionlike voice utters an edict, prompt obedience of such edict is then in

One of the peculiarities of this remarkable man is the fact that he does not permit lawyers to practice in his

"As a peace officer," philosophizes Justice Jacques, "my first duty, as I see it, is to promote peace, and as lawyers and peace are not mixable quantities, I have barred the lawyers in the interest of peace."

Justice Jacques has for a long while been the village blacksmith and horseshoer at Elmont, and his phenomenal strength enables him, when occasion requires, to conquer the most refractory horse by throwing him to the floor and sitting on him while an as sistant nails on the shoes. Men of collegiate education are seldom found



FRANK JACQUES. (Kansas Justice Who Presides Over Most Unique Tribunal.)

in a horseshoeing shop, but Justice

A bird in church racques is an exception to the rule, for he is highly educated. He is an omniverous reader, devoting the reater part of his leisure to highclass literature, and he has written everal important articles on social

and industrial topics. the office which he now holds, but was drafted by the people of his township in a nonpartisan movement, and nis election was unanimous. For some ime there had been more or less etty litigation of a neighborhood character in Elmont, and as a matter of civic pride some of the leading citizens started a boom for Jacques, believing that he would be able to wield a peaceful influence and pronote the community spirit. He took charge of the office January 1 this ear, and since that time he has amiably adjusted several local feuds of ong standing.

On the dingy walls of the combined lacksmith shop and courtroom there re several placards bearing signifiant inscriptions. One of these reads:

LET US HAVE PEACE.

And another one, still more to the point, is as follows:

NO LAWYERS PERMITTED IN THIS COURT. THE BEL-LOWS FURNISH WIND.

"I don't expect to make any money out of this office," Mr. Jacques said to is constituents at the time of his election, "therefore I cannot afford to ent a courtroom. I will hold court in my shop whenever a session is necesany, and people who have troubles to adjust are welcome to call at any time-cordially welcome, so long as they do not bring a lawyer with

When a dispute is to be settled it is the custom of Justice Jacques to let each party to the trouble relate in an nformal way his side of the story. Meanwhile, he incidentally stands beween them to nip in the bud any signs of rising temper. When he has heard both versions he analyzes the situation and suggests such terms of adjustment as to him appears fair. Nine times out of ten, litigans are satisfied with the Jacques method of settlement, and even though they may have come before the blacksmith jurst as enemies, they leave as brothers.

Justice Jacques is long on mirth, and is much given to harmless joking. In Topeka a few days ago he met a young lawyer friend, recently admitted to the bar, and invited him to visit his court.

"But," responded the lawyer, "I thought you did not allow lawyers to appear in your court."

"Just so," Jacques solemnly replied, but I see no reason why that rule should apply to you."



dost thou share our hu-man need Of vo-cal worship and of creed?

lift ed quiv'ring to thy goal, A bird no long-er, but a soul?

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